

District IV Commissioner Romney Rogers



As we embark on a new year, I want to remind you that Public Safety is the top priority of your City Commission. But we can't operate in a vacuum, so I urge you to help "Take A Bite Out Of Crime[®]": **If you see something, say something ... report suspicious activity to local law enforcement (954-764-4357 for non-emergencies) or call 911.** Thank You.

Vision Zero: Fort Lauderdale – "Vision Zero: Fort Lauderdale" is a response to citizens' concerns about safety for the traveling public, whether walking, biking, riding a bus or train, or driving a car. Neighbors prioritized a connected multimodal transportation network in which the pedestrian is first in the City's Fast Forward Fort Lauderdale 2035 Vision Plan, completed in 2013. Since that time, our neighbors have placed a priority on improving safety and connectivity of the transportation network. Reaching zero traffic-related fatalities or injuries is a huge goal for any city, but the City of Fort Lauderdale is committed to improving the life and safety of everyone who travels on our streets. On November 3, 2015, the City Commission joined numerous cities across the country and took the first step toward achieving this goal by unanimously adopting **Vision Zero: Fort Lauderdale** (<http://www.fortlauderdale.gov/departments/transportation-and-mobility/vision-zero-2851>).

In a related initiative, the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) and the Fort Lauderdale Police Department are partnering to bring an **Alert Today, Alive Tomorrow** (<http://www.alerttodayflorida.com>) event to our downtown. Alert Today, Alive Tomorrow is a pedestrian- and bicycle-focused initiative with the main goal of increasing awareness of pedestrian and bicyclist safety and decreasing fatalities. This event – to be held **Tuesday, Feb. 2** – will take place at the NE corner of Broward Boulevard and Andrews Avenue, from **11 AM to 2 PM** (i.e., during peak pedestrian hours). Participants will receive educational materials focused on pedestrian and bike safety, among other activities. Fort Lauderdale Police will be onsite to assist. This event ties closely with the City's Strategic and Vision Plans, as well as Vision Zero: Fort Lauderdale. It also supports the Police Department's current **High Visibility public education and outreach campaign** (<http://www.flpd.org/Home/ShowDocument?id=4292>).

Building Projects – I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who submitted comments on project proposals for Bahia Cabana, Bahia Mar, and the large parcel of land at 2681 Riverland Road. This past year, the City Commission has been grappling with the many complex issues involved in such projects. For videos of the four Commission Workshops on this topic, simply log on to <https://fortlauderdale.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx> and click on the videos for workshops held in 2015 on Jan. 21, March 24, June 2, and Sept. 1.

Update on Vacation Rentals – Ordinance C-15-29, regulating short-term rentals, became effective Nov. 1, 2015. (See <http://www.fortlauderdale.gov/departments/sustainable-development/code-compliance/vacation-rental-registration-program>.) As of Jan. 22, 2016, 83 properties have submitted applications. Of these, nine Certificates of Compliance have been issued. Forty-one applications are complete and ready for inspection (not including the nine that passed); 33 applications were found incomplete (letters have been sent). In addition, 73 properties have been reported as operating illegally. Of those, four have submitted applications and are actively involved in registering; the remaining 69 are under investigation. Five properties have since failed inspection.

City Recognized as Climate Leader – On Dec. 2, 2015, at the Annual Southeast Florida Regional Climate Leadership Summit, the City received the 2015 Climate Leader Award, acknowledging our 1) support of the Regional Climate Change Action Plan, prepared by the Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Compact (<http://www.southeastfloridaclimatcompact.org>); 2) piloting the concept of Adaptation Action Areas; 3) installation of tidal valves to address high tide flooding; and 4) support of the new Compact Municipal Work Group.

We're A Top 10 Digital City! The Center for Digital Government put Fort Lauderdale on the list of top tech-savvy cities in the nation for 2015. The Digital Cities Survey Award recognized the City's innovative use of data and technology to promote civic engagement, support citywide policy, and enhance operational efficiency. Specific initiatives, which foster open government and facilitate community collaboration, include the Granicus Legistar Commission Agenda System and the e-Comments tool, citywide Telephone Town Hall Meetings, the Property Reporter, Ethics Trac, the Financial Transparency Portal, and the Lauderserv customer service portal and application. Our redesigned website placed third in the 2015 Best of the Web category of "Best City Portal."

Of Interest –

- **Neighbor Support Night:** Thursday, Feb. 11, 5:30 - 8 PM, Fort Lauderdale City Hall, 100 N Andrews Avenue.
- **Las Olas Sunday Market:** 9 AM - 3 PM at 333 E Las Olas. The market is on Facebook, for more information.

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- My City Hall Office Hours are Mondays from 4 - 5:30 PM and Tuesdays from 9 AM - Noon (in non-Commission weeks). To schedule a meeting, contact MJ Matthews at 954-828-5028 or mmatthews@fortlauderdale.gov.
 - If you would like to be on our e-mail list for news, notices, and events, please let MJ know and she will add you.